

## Claims

1 A mechanical joint for use in the construction of an article, said joint comprising a first member for connection with a second member, and wherein said first member is provided with at least one aperture having an opening defined by first and second edges, said aperture provided for the reception of the second member, or an insert to which the second member can be attached, and to form the joint, the first and/or second edges of the opening are moved to engage the second member or insert within the aperture.

2 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that the first member is provided with a series of apertures formed at spaced intervals and each of said apertures is provided for the formation of a mechanical joint in accordance with the invention.

3 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that the second member lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the longitudinal axis of the first member.

4 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that the first member is provided in an initial condition in an elongate form and the movement of the first and second edges of the opening of the aperture is about a pivotal axis located in the aperture or adjacent thereto so that the first member, when the joint is formed has relatively angled first and second portions at or adjacent to the formed joint.

5 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that the aperture is formed so as to extend from one side of the member substantially across the majority of the member to the opposite side leaving a band of material at the opposite side.

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6 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that an insert is provided in the aperture and has upper and/or lower collars formations which protrude above or below the first member.

7 A mechanical joint according to claim characterised in that in one form the second member positioned in the aperture is a former and is subsequently moved out of the aperture and replaced by an insert which can be held in position.

8 A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterised in that the second member is attached to an insert held within the opening.

9 A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising taking a first elongate member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member, positioning a member or insert in the aperture and then moving at least one portion of the member to move first and second edges of the opening towards one another to a degree which is sufficient to prevent the insert or member from passing through the opening.

10 A method according to claim 9 characterised in that the first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close the opening and hence retain the member or insert in position in the aperture.

11 A method according to claim 9 characterised in that the opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member and/or weld material.

12 A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising taking a first elongate member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member, positioning a former in the aperture and moving at least one portion of the member to at least partially

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close the opening to an extent which is sufficient to prevent the former from passing through the opening.

13 A ,method according to claim 12 characterised in that the former is removed by sliding the same out of the aperture and replaced by an insert or second member which is positioned to engage in the opening and so engage a second member with the first member directly or via the insert.

14 A method according to claim 12 characterised in that the former is an insert which is retained in position and to which the second member is connected.

15 A method according to claim 12 characterised in that the former is part of the second member trapped in position to form the mechanical joint.

16 An item formed from at least a first and second member, said item formed by engaging the second member with the first member via a mechanical joint and characterised in that said mechanical joint is formed with the first member including an opening defined therein for the reception of the second member or means to which the second member can be attached, said edges defining the opening moved to trap the means or second member in the opening and thereby form the item of furniture.

17 An item according to claim 16 characterised in that the item is formed from a series of selectively engaged members, at least one of said engagements made via a mechanical joint as herein described.

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